AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0026] As described above, according to the present invention, the users can smoothly converse with each other.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a conversation support apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the structure of the conversation support apparatus;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram showing software stored in a main storage section 8;

Fig. 4 is a schematic diagram showing an example of a picture/sound database;

Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing the structure of a sound pressure level determination section;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged view showing a connection portion of a first main body and a second main body;

Fig. 7 is a flow chart showing the operation of the conversation support apparatus;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing a picture analysis process at step 706 shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 is a schematic diagram showing an example of a picture that has been converted and that is displayed on a second display section 32;

Fig. 10 is a schematic diagram showing a table that correlates lips patterns of a plurality of people and their conversion table IDs;

Fig. 11 is a schematic diagram showing a conversion table;

Fig. 12 is a flow chart showing a part (initial setting) of an operation of a conversation support apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 13 is a side view showing a conversation support apparatus according to a further other embodiment of the present invention. –

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0040] FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing the structure of the sound pressure level determination section 9 shown in FIG. 2. ~~1.~~ The sound pressure level determination section 9 has a threshold value setting section 15 and a comparison section 16. The sound pressure level determination section 9 has a function that starts analyzing a picture captured by the camera 21 and so forth for example when the comparison section 16 has determined that the sound pressure of sound that the user pronounces in front of the microphone 23 exceeds a threshold value that has been set in the threshold value setting section 15. In this case, with the operation button 24, the user may be able to set the threshold value. Instead, the sound pressure level determination section 9 may start analyzing pictures with the noise level rather than the sound pressure level. --

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0046] When the cameras 21 and 31 start capturing pictures, the conversation support apparatus 1 waits until sound of the non-impaired person or the hearing impaired person is input (at step 703). When the sound is input (namely, the determined result at step 704 is YES), the sound

pressure level determination section 9 determines whether the sound pressure level of the input sound is equal to or larger than the threshold value (at step 705). When the sound pressure level of the input sound is equal to or larger than the threshold value, the main processor 3 starts an analysis process for the pictures captured by the camera 21 and so forth and an analysis process for sound collected by the microphone 23 according to the picture analysis program 11 and the sound analysis program 12, respectively (at step 706). In this case, the sub processors 5 and 6 share these processes according to an analysis process command issued by the main processor 3. In this case, for example the sub processor 5 may perform the analysis process for the pictures, whereas for example the sub processor 6 may perform the analysis process for the sound. --

Please replace paragraph [0064] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0064] According to the foregoing embodiments, the case that a non-impaired person and a hearing impaired person converse with each other was described. Instead, the present invention may be applied to the case that a Japanese person and a non-Japanese person converse with each other. In addition, according to the foregoing embodiments, ~~an~~ a hearing impaired person and a visually impaired person may converse with each other. In this case, when sound that the visually impaired person pronounces is converted into character information or sign information and displayed on a display section, the hearing impaired person can understand the contents about which the visually impaired person converses through the display section. On the other hand, when sign information of the hearing impaired person is converted into sound information and output from the speaker 33, the visually impaired person can converse with the hearing impaired person through the speaker 33. --

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0066] The shape of the conversation support apparatus 1 is not limited to the shape shown in FIG. 1. Instead, a conversation support apparatus shown in FIG. 13 may be used. The conversation support apparatus shown in FIG. 13 is denoted by reference numeral 50. The conversation support apparatus 50 is nearly the size of for example a lap-top computer. In the conversation support apparatus 50, a first main body 60 and a second main body 70 are connected with a connection portion 51 so that they can be folded at any angle C. The first main body 60 and the second main body 70 have leg portions 69 and 79 ~~71~~ that can be rotated at any angle D. The leg portions 69 and 79 ~~70~~ may be provided with operation buttons, a speaker, a microphone, and so forth (not shown). In FIG. 13, reference numerals 61 and 71 represent cameras. Reference numerals 62 and 72 represent display sections (display panels). With the conversation support apparatus 50, for example an non-impaired person 34 and a hearing impaired person 35 can converse with each other. --

Please replace paragraph [0067] with the following rewritten paragraph.

-- [0067] According to the foregoing embodiments, the non-impaired person first pronounces words. The sound pressure level determination section 9 determines the sound pressure level of the input words. Instead, the sound pressure level determination section 9 may determine the sound pressure level of words that the hearing impaired person initially pronounces. A listener may ~~be~~ find it difficult to hear words that a hearing impaired person pronounces. However, when he or she pronounces some words, the conversation support apparatus can start the analysis process for a picture of a sign of the hearing impaired person by determining the sound pressure level of the words. --

Please delete paragraph [0073].